



MIAMI BEACH

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Miami Beach Serves Up a New Tennis Center At Flamingo Park

-- Officials Break Ground at a Public Ceremony, June 8 at 10:00 a.m --

Miami Beach, FL – Flamingo Park is nestled within one of Miami Beach's largest and most historic residential neighborhoods. The 36.53-acre park is home to various recreational and sporting activities including the Holtz Tennis Center – where the likes of Chris Evert, Mary Jo Fernandez, Bjorn Borg, and John McEnroe played at the start of their tennis careers.

As part of their citywide capital improvements program, the City of Miami Beach is reconstructing the Flamingo Park Holtz Tennis Center. Construction began at the beginning of May 2012.

"We're very excited to see this project commence," said Miami Beach City Manager Jorge M. Gonzalez. "Once the center is complete, we hope to exceed the expectations of the users with the new courts and to restore it to its championship glory days."

The \$5.3 million project, designed by Wolfberg Alvarez and Partners, includes 17 new clay tennis courts, a tennis center building with an enhanced entrance, new irrigation and drainage system and new lighting. The new drainage system will address one of the major issues at the center: ponding of water on the courts. Construction, by Pirtle Construction, is estimated to last for approximately one year; however, the center will remain open during the entire process.

The center was the former home of the Junior Orange Bowl Tennis Championship, which came to Miami Beach in 1947 and remained for 51 years. In 1984, the City built the Abel Holtz Tennis Center as a professional tennis stadium, which is in under a major renovation today.

A brass plaque at the entrance to the center displays the names of decades of tournament winners. Players include the who's who of tennis: Chris Evert (1969, 1970), Bjorn Borg (1972), John McEnroe (1976), Evan Lendl (1977), Gabriela Sabatini (1984), Jim Courier (1987), and Anna Kournikova (1995). Miami's Mary Jo Fernandez is still, to this day, the only player (male or female) to win in every age division: 12, 14, 16, and 18 (1982 to 1985).

"When this project is finished, we hope for the return of the prestigious Junior Orange Bowl Tennis Championship to the Holtz Tennis Center," said Miami Beach Mayor Matti Herrera Bower.

The Flamingo Park Holtz Tennis Center is located at 999 11 Street, Miami Beach. Funding for the project include the 1999 General Obligation (GO) Bonds (Miami Beach), 2003 GO Bonds (County), and South Pointe Post RDA CDT & Municipal Resort Tax.

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